

What is claimed is:

1. For a processor having a power line, a system to determine processor utilization, the system comprising:

a sensor coupled to the power line for measuring current being consumed by the processor.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the measured current is compared to a maximum current value indicative of current consumed by the processor when fully utilized.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the system includes means for determining a maximum current value indicative of current consumed by the processor when fully utilized.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the means for determining the maximum current value includes a software application.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the system includes means for causing the processor to be fully utilized.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the means for causing the processor to be fully utilized includes a software application.
7. The system of claim 2, wherein the system includes means for comparing the measured current to the maximum current value.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the means for comparing includes a software application executed by the system.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the system includes means for generating a graphical representation of processor utilization.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for generating the graphical representation includes a software application executed by the system.

11. A method for determining processor utilization information comprising:
- acquiring a parameter indicative of current being consumed by the processor;
- comparing the acquired parameter to a maximum current value; and
- calculating the utilization information of the processor.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of acquiring the parameter includes utilizing a sensor to sense the current parameter.
13. The method of claim 11, including causing the processor to be fully utilized.
14. The method of claim 13, including determining a maximum parameter indicative of a maximum current consumed by the processor.
15. The method of claim 13, including utilizing a software application to fully utilize the processor.
16. The method of claim 11, including graphically displaying the utilization information.
17. The method of claim 12, wherein the sensor is a hall-effect sensor.

18. For a target processor including a power line, a system to determine target processor utilization comprising:

a host including a host memory, and a host processor;

a sensor coupled to the power line adapted to measure the magnitude of current being consumed by the target processor;

a maximum current utility adapted to cause the target processor to consume a maximum amount of current by the target processor; and

a utilization utility adapted to be stored in the host memory and executed by the host processor, the utilization utility further adapted to calculate utilization information of the target processor.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the utilization utility is adapted to graphically display the calculated utilization information.

20. A method for determining utilization information of a target processor comprising:

acquiring a parameter indicative of current being consumed by the target processor while executing a software application;

fully utilizing the target processor;

acquiring a parameter indicative of maximum current consumed by the target processor while the target processor is fully utilized; and

comparing the parameters indicative of current consumed by the target processor with the maximum current consumed by the target processor to calculate target processor utilization information.

21. The method of claim 20, including optimization of the software application in response to the calculated target processor utilization information.

22. A system to determine processor utilization, comprising:
a processor having a power line; and
a sensor coupled to the power line to measure current in the power line.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the measured current is compared to a maximum current value indicative of current consumed by the processor when fully utilized.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the system includes a software application for determining the maximum current value.